WILLIAMS JESSIE M
77 GEORGETOWN 3322

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(55)

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY /41 DATE
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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ACTION SCS-06
INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CA-01 L-03 [redacted]

R 2314462 DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5208
UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 3322
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC [redacted] E B6
SUBJECT: W/M [redacted] E B6
REF: A. STATE 303126
B. STATE 303147
C [redacted] E B6

1. EMBASSY CAREFULLY REVIEWED REFTELS A AND B — PERTAINING TO [redacted] FAMILY IN GUYANA. IN OUR E B6 JUDGMENT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL A DOES NOT GIVE CONSULAR OFFICER LEGAL AUTHORITY TO SEEK REMOVAL OF A 7 YEAR OLD GIRL FROM THE CUSTODY OF HER GRANDMOTHER. QUITE FRANKLY, WE WERE SURPRISED THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD INSTRUCT EMBASSY TO INTERVENE IN A CHILD CUSTODY MATTER AND SEEK GOG OFFICIAL ACTION IN HAVING CHILD TAKEN FROM HER GRANDMOTHER AND RETURNED TO US SOLELY ON BASIS OF A TELEPHONE REQUEST.
2. EMBASSY INFORMED APPROPRIATE GUYANESE AUTHORITIES OF [redacted] DESIRE E B6 TO REMOVE HER DAUGHTER [redacted] FROM CUSTODY OF GRAND- E B6 MOTHER. HOWEVER AS EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT ARE ALREADY AWARE FROM EXPERIENCE WITH THE STORN CASE DURING AUGUST THIS YEAR, UNDER GUYANESE LAW, ONLY THE GUYANESE COURTS HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE

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LEGALLY BINDING DECISIONS CONCERNING CUSTODY OF CHILDREN RESIDENT IN GUYANA. EVEN A US COURT ORDER WOULD NOT BE LEGALLY BINDING, BUT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS IMPORTANT MATERIAL EVIDENCE IN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS HERE.
3. GUYANESE AUTHORITIES WILL NOT REMOVE [redacted] FROM E B6 HER GRANDMOTHER WITHOUT A GUYANESE COURT ORDER EMPOWERING THEM TO DO SO. THEREFORE, UNLESS THE GRANDMOTHER CAN BE PERSUADED TO VOLUNTARILY RELIN- QUISH CUSTODY OF [redacted] THE ONLY LEGAL REMEDY WOULD E B6 BE FOR ONE OF [redacted] PARENTS TO COME TO GUYANA, E B6 ENGAGE A LOCAL LAWYER AND OBTAIN A RULING IN A GUYANESE COURT.
4. WE ASSUME THAT [redacted] HAS MADE E B6 KNOWN TO THE GRANDMOTHER HER DESIRE TO HAVE [redacted] E B6 RETURNED. CONSUL WILL INFORM GRANDMOTHER OF [redacted] E B6 MOTHER'S WISHES DURING VISIT TO JONESTOWN IN NEAR

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FUTURE. ASSUMING THAT THE GRANDMOTHER WERE TO BRING [redacted] TO GEORGETOWN FOR RETURN TO THE US WHO WILL PAY FOR AIR FARE AND ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD DURING TRANSIT? E B6

5. REFTEL A RAISES SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT [redacted] E B6
STATUS WHICH [redacted] WILL UNDOUBTEDLY E B6
BE ASKED IF CASE IS TAKEN TO GUYANESE COURT. FOR
EXAMPLE. WHY WAS [redacted] RESIDING WITH GRANDMOTHER E B6
PRIOR TO HER DEPARTURE FROM THE US AND FOR HOW LONG
HAD SHE BEEN IN THE GRANDMOTHER'S CUSTODY? HOW
WAS SHE BROUGHT TO GUYANA AGAINST PARENTAL WISHES?
WAS OBJECTION RAISED AT THE TIME WITH US AUTHORITIES?
WHY DID MOTHER DELAY OVER SIX MONTHS TO REQUEST
HER RETURN?

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6. [redacted] HAS BEEN TO THE EMBASSY ON E B6
TWO OCCASIONS. ON ONE OF THESE VISITS, SHE REPORTED
THE DEATH OF [redacted] AND E B6
MADE APPLICATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR
HER SURVIVING CHILDREN AND GRAND CHILDREN OF WHOM
[redacted] IS ONE. ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF [redacted] E B6 E B6
CUSTODY WAS NOT AT ISSUE THEN, THE IMPRESSION THAT
[redacted] GAVE REGARDING THE GRAND CHILDREN E B6
WAS THAT ALL THESE CHILDREN HAD BEEN RESIDING E B6
WITH HER AND [redacted] AND HAD BEEN SUPPORTED
BY THEM FOR SOME TIME BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL IN
GUYANA.

7. EMBASSY BY LETTER DATED [redacted] AND E B6
REFTEL C INFORMED [redacted] OF THE E B6
DEATH OF HIS RELATIVE. OUR LETTER ALSO RESPONDED TO
ALLEGATIONS OF ILL TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AT JONESTOWN.
INCOMING LETTER FROM [redacted] WAS CO-SIGNED BY 21 INDIVI- E B6
DUALS ALL PRESUMABLY RELATIVES OF THE [redacted] E B6
FAMILY. REFTEL C GAVE DETAILS PERTAINING TO [redacted] E B6
[redacted] DEATH. CONSUL INFORMED [redacted] E B6
RELATIVES CONCERN FOR HER WELL BEING. SHE INFORMED
CONSUL SHE INTENDS TO REMAIN IN GUYANA FOR AN
INDEFINITE PERIOD.

8. CONSUL IS PLANNING TO VISIT JONESTOWN WITHIN
NEXT TWO WEEKS. AT THAT TIME HE WILL ARRANGE
PERSONAL, PRIVATE CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF INDIVI-
DUALS WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WELFARE/
WHEREABOUTS INQUIRIES, INCLUDING [redacted] E B6

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT SHOULD INFORM [redacted] E B6
[redacted] FAMILY OF CONTENTS OF PARAGRAPHS SIX AND E B6
SEVEN ABOVE AND MAY WISH TO INFORM [redacted] E B6
[redacted] THAT HER DESIRE FOR THE RETURN OF [redacted]

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HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE GOG WHICH IN TURN HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS POWERLESS TO ACT IN FAMILY DISPUTES WITHOUT A GUYANESE COURT ORDER. IF PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RETURN OF [redacted] TO THE US, CANNOT BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN [redacted] E BL E BL
MOTHER AND HER GRANDMOTHER THEN [redacted] MOTHER E BL
WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER BRINGING SUIT IN A GUYANESE COURT. TO DO THIS SHE, OR [redacted] FATHER, WOULD HAVE E BL
TO COME TO GUYANA AND ENGAGE A GUYANESE LAWYER.
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